

WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

Robert T. Neill Collection, 1879-1962

20 linear inches

Record ID: A - 6

Donor: Mrs. Robert T. Neill

Acquisition: Gift, 1972

Access: Open for research

Restrictions: None

Citation: Robert T. Neill Papers, West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

Administrative/Biographical History:

Robert T. Neill was born in Stephenville, Texas on 27 April 1879 to Hal Hart Neill and Dora Fagan Neill. Hal Neill was a noted attorney and appeals court justice. As a boy Robert attended West Texas Military Academy. The Spanish-American War interrupted his studies at the University of Texas at Austin but he returned and received his LLB degree in 1901.

Neill was appointed U.S. Commissioner at San Antonio. After two years as assistant U.S. district attorney in El Paso, Neill was transferred to the Justice Department in Washington DC. In 1914-15 Robert Neill was sent to Chicago by the Justice Department on a special mission where he was to assist in the government's fight against the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). He later successfully defended a number of IWW members in New Mexico and Arizona.

As a defense attorney Neill spent several years representing oil companies in various sorts of litigation in West Texas. He also participated in the anti-trust case filed against the Associated Press in 1942. This litigation lasted more than five years.

Robert Neill moved to San Angelo to become a partner with the law firm of Hill & Hill. He retired from active practice in 1957. He died 6 December 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Neill lived on Park Street in San Angelo. One of the great disappointments of his life came with the flood of 17 September 1936, when the river flooded the basement of his home and destroyed a prize collection of books.

Scope and Content:

The collection is made up of original and copied materials from the career and life of Robert T. Neill. The topics vary widely but mostly pertain to West Texas or to Neill's legal work. Within the collection is material from a friend and business associate, Oscar Frink and material on the Neill family.

Arrangement:

Box	File	Description
1	1	Consists of letters written in 1923 and 1927 by W.H. Arnold of San Angelo who was trying to claim his pension as a Texas Ranger. He served with Terry's Texas Rangers from 10 May 1859 until 20 January 1861 in Company B. Fort Belknap, Fort Griffin, Camp Colorado and Camp Cooper formed the western boundary of the frontier.
	2	Copies (2) of letter and newspaper clippings sent by Judge Neill to Board of Pardons and Paroles of the State of Texas dated 22 September 1945 seeking clemency on behalf of L.C. Adkins. Adkins was condemned to die for the slaying of a white policeman, V.L. Morris, in Dallas.
	3	3 clippings from <u>Chicago Daily Tribune</u> from 7 November 1959 on the disappearance of Judge W. Lynn Parkinson.
	4	Information pertaining to the incorporation of Texas Southern Petroleum Company by U.S. Waugh, A.E. Spor, and A.T. Alcorn of San Angelo, Texas.
	5	Material relating to E. Rayne McComb Herzog's writing of a new will.
	6	<i>USA v. Harte-Hanks (1957)</i> : Correspondence between Gov. Dan Moody and Neill, the latter giving his opinion on the suit.
2		Information of Fort Concho including a diary (copied), 1869-1875, of Orlando M. Smith's, paymaster at Fort Concho, and copied letters of Smith's, 1865-1874
3		Letters to General H.H. Arnold (copies); some of the letters are to and from Orville and Wilbur Wright regarding the development of the airplane. Tait Letters (copies), 1848-1854, and correspondence concerning the Stroope, Lineweber and Colbath Neel families (1829-1866); many are letters written during the Civil War. Copies of the Will of Stephen F. Austin and his sister, Emily M. Perry.
4		Materials concerning the Spanish American War. Material on Oscar Frink; material covering World War I and II; newspaper clippings and notices.
5		World War I; booklets covering regulations, some related to the Selective Service.
6	1	Personal materials, including medical information, wedding clippings and announcements, newspaper clippings (14 items), and obituaries: Baker, LaDorna; Baker, Travis E.; Cartledge, Mrs. Eugene (Nancy Harris); Crane, Edward; Gamble, Edward; Gamble, Harvey R.; Hill, Jared; McSpadden, Mrs. R.D. (Zola); Monteith, Justice, W.E.; Terrell, Marshall Wilson; Wojtek, Mrs. F.C. Sr.
	2	Income tax information for Neill and wife, Lela (1945-6); religious items; photographs (Lynn; W. Bob Hamilton, Jr.); programs and memberships; correspondence.
	3	Information concerning the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, 1957-58.
	4	The <i>J.TAC</i> Newspaper from John Tarleton College, 9 March 1921; The <i>Jacksboro Gazette</i> , 27 September 1945; Booklet on John Tarleton: A Memorial to the Founder of Tarleton College, 1 May 1933.
	5	Letter from J.B. Hatchitt, 7 Dec 1944 to Neill; information concerning Judicial Poll, 1953; speech on business statesmanship by W. Hume Everett, 1956.
	6	Copy of the <i>Ulster County Gazette</i> , 4 January 1800.
7		Two stenographic books belonging to Neill; notebook containing information on

Box	File	Description
		cases primarily having to do with the oil business in West Texas. Most are dated 1929; autograph book of Lela Neill at Camp Kiva, 1928; diary of Judge Robert T. Neill for the year 1946; diary of Mrs. Neill, 1937.